

How To Become A Certified EMT In South Carolina Reciprocity Guidelines

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Reciprocity Guidelines

Introduction:

The following information is provided to all individuals who possess either a National Registry EMT Credential or an EMT (Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic) certification from another state, other than South Carolina, and desire to obtain a South Carolina EMT Certification.

Reciprocity (r_s_ e-pr_s_-t_):

1. A reciprocal condition or relationship.
2. A mutual or cooperative interchange of favors or privileges, esp. The exchange of rights or privileges of trade between nations.

The following guidelines have been established in accordance with the EMS laws and Regulations of South Carolina to grant reciprocity (i.e. exchange of rights or privileges) to all candidates who hold an EMT certification from a state other than South Carolina or who possess a National Registry EMT Credential and can document equivalency in training and certification standards equal to or exceeding those of South Carolina.

These rights are granted to the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control, Division of Emergency Medical Services by way of the South Carolina law & regulations dealing with Emergency Medical Services, particularly those laws & regulations dealing with EMT Training & Certification.

SC EMS Law & Regulations:

SC EMS Law: Emergency Medical Services Act of South Carolina -
Chapter 61, Section 44
44-61-80

(C) Any person desiring certification as an emergency medical technician must complete the appropriate emergency medical technician course and apply to the Department*. *The Department shall make a determination of the applicant's qualifications and shall issue the appropriate certificate to the applicant. The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians licenses shall be acceptable to obtain a state emergency medical technician's certificate.*

* The Department of Health and Environmental Control

SC EMS Regulations: South Carolina Emergency Medical Services
Regulation Number 61-7

Section VIII (Training & Certification)

Section 803 (Application for Certification as an Emergency Medical Technician - Basic)

- A. Applications for certification as an emergency medical technician - Basic in South Carolina are to be submitted to the Division of Emergency Medical Services, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, indicating that the student has satisfactorily completed the required curriculum to include any required clinical experience.

Reciprocity candidates must provide a copy of their out-of-state certificate that has at least six months remaining on it prior to its expiration date, *and have met other requirements as established by the Department. After passing the state examinations, candidates will be issued certificates that expire three years from the issue date of their out-of-state certificate.*

National Registry candidates requesting *initial* reciprocity may exempt the state practical and written examinations *provided* they have a certificate that has at least six months remaining on it prior to its expiration date *and have met other requirements as established by the Department.*

- B. Upon receipt of the completed application, practical and written examinations will be given at such times as will be scheduled by the Department. An emergency medical technician - Basic certificate will be issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control upon satisfactory completion of the practical and written examinations, and will be effective for three years from the date of issue. A pocket ID card will be issued along with the Basic certificate and must be in the possession of the EMT-Basic at all times that patient care is rendered.

Section 804 (Application for certification as an Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate or Paramedic)

- A. Applications for certification as an EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic in South Carolina are to be submitted to the Division of Emergency Medical Services, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, using forms provided by the Division of EMS as follows:
 - 1. Candidates completing a South Carolina approved course must provide a certificate application card that indicates satisfactory completion of the course.

2: Candidates applying for certification by reciprocity must provide a certificate application card along with a copy of their out-of-state certificate that has at least six months remaining on it prior to its expiration date *and have met other requirements as established by the Department*. They must also provide statements from a South Carolina licensed provider and the unit medical control physician indicating sponsorship. After passing the state examinations, candidates will be issued certificates that expire three years from the out-of-state issue date. National Registry EMT-Paramedic candidates requesting reciprocity, may on their *initial* certification, exempt the state practical & written examinations.

B. Candidates that meet the requirements in “A” above will be permitted to take the state examinations. Candidates that pass the state examinations will then be issued an intermediate or advanced (ie paramedic) certificate as appropriate by DHEC which will be effective for three years. Candidates from out-of-state will be provided certificates that expire three years from the issue date of the out-of-state certificate. A pocket ID card will be issued along with the EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic certificate and must be in the possession of the EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic at all times that patient care is rendered.

South Carolina Certification Examinations:

South Carolina uses the National Registry EMT Examinations as the standard for certification of EMTs in South Carolina.

In 1994, South Carolina adopted the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians practical and written examinations as the South Carolina “state” certification examination for all *initial* South Carolina state certifications of EMT-Intermediates and EMT-Paramedic candidates.

With the additional adoption of the DOT revised 1994 EMT-Basic curriculum in 1995, South Carolina adopted the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians practical and written examination for the EMT-Basic as the South Carolina “state” certification examination for all South Carolina state certifications of EMT-Basics, initial & refresher candidates.

Qualifications for Reciprocity in South Carolina:

All candidates who meet all of the following qualifications may be granted reciprocity as an

EMT (Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic) in South Carolina.

1. The candidate has completed an EMT course which meets or exceeds the Department of Transportation (DOT) curriculum - and - can document other training as required by South Carolina for that level of EMT certification.
2. The candidate:
 - A) Possess a current National Registry EMT-Basic certification (Preferred) or a current EMT -Basic Certification from a state other than South Carolina, can document training equivalent to the current DOT EMT-Basic refresher course within the past two-years, - OR -
 - B) Possess a current National Registry EMT-Intermediate certification (Preferred) or a current EMT - Intermediate Certification from a state other than South Carolina, can document training equivalent to the DOT - Intermediate refresher course within the past two-years, - OR -
 - C) Possess a current National Registry EMT- Paramedic certification (Preferred) or a current EMT - Paramedic Certification from a state other than South Carolina, can document training equivalent to the current DOT - Paramedic refresher course within the past two-years.
3. The candidate possess a current BLS* credential and, if a paramedic candidate, also possess a current ACLS** credential.

* South Carolina accepts only the following BLS credentials:

American Heart Association (AHA) BLS for the Healthcare Provider
American Red Cross (ARC) CPR for the Professional Rescuer
American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI) CPR Pro

** South Carolina accepts only the following ACLS credentials:

American Heart Association (AHA) ACLS
American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI) ACLS

Candidates who do not meet all of the qualifications as stated above may be granted permission to enter a South Carolina EMT refresher program in order to satisfy the training and examination requirements necessary for national registration and subsequent certification in South Carolina.

Out-Of-State EMT Certifications :

1. **Direct Reciprocity**

EMTs who possess a current EMT certification (Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic) in a state, other than SC, may qualify for direct reciprocity in SC. Candidates must possess and submit the following:

- ◆ A copy of the candidate's out-of-state EMT (Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic) certificate or certification pocket card with at least six (6) months remaining on their out-of-state certificate
- ◆ A completed and signed Out-Of-State Reciprocity Verification form (Page 12).
- ◆ A completed and signed Reciprocity Application (Page 13).
- ◆ Submit a copy of your current BLS (CPR) credential. Paramedic candidates must also submit a copy of their current ACLS credential. A copy of the card is required! Letters are NOT accepted!

In addition to the above, EMT-Basics & EMT-Intermediates must also submit the following course documentation:

EMT-Basic:

Submit a detailed course outline of your most recent D.O.T. course (initial or refresher) equivalent to the 1994 D.O.T. EMT-Basic curriculum which indicates training in orotracheal intubation (ET) & IV maintenance. Speciality training (i.e. ACLS, etc.) is NOT acceptable. You must also provide proof of course completion within the past two-years.

If you can NOT document training in orotracheal intubation & IV maintenance - You must apply to take the additional training here in SC.

EMT-Intermediate:

Submit a detailed course outline of your most recent D.O.T. course (initial or refresher) which indicates training in endotracheal intubation (ET) - AND- intraosseous infusion (IO). Speciality training (i.e. ACLS, PALS, etc.) is NOT acceptable for documentation of ET or IO training. You must also provide proof of course completion within the past two-years.

If you can NOT document training in endotracheal intubation (ET) & intraosseous infusion (IO) - You must apply to take the additional training here in SC.

If the out-of-state certification can be verified through that state's EMS office and, once the above documentation has been received, you will be mailed a *Certificate*

*Application** (white, green or blue) *Card* and upon submission of the properly completed & signed application card, you will receive a SC state certification with an expiration date equal to your out-of-state certificate expiration date or up to but not exceeding a maximum of one-year, whichever is LESS.

During your status as a SC certified EMT (Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic), you will be expected to complete all requirements for obtaining your National Registry EMT credential at the same level as your SC certification. You will NOT be recertified in SC unless you have obtained a National Registry EMT credential at the same level as your SC certification.

* Intermediate & paramedic candidates who qualify for certification in SC must gain sponsorship from a SC licensed EMS director AND that provider's medical control physician before state certification can be granted.

2. Candidates whose out-of-state certification has LESS than six-months remaining -OR - who need to obtain additional training as required by SC:

Refresher Course / Additional Training Permission:

Candidates who hold EMT certifications (Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic) from other states (current but with less than six months remaining - OR - need the additional training as required by SC - OR - their out-of-state certification has not been expired for more than one-year*) may qualify to enter a SC EMT refresher program. You may only request permission to enter a refresher course at the same level (or lower) than your current or former certification.

* A candidate must successfully pass, both the practical and written, National Registry examinations within two-years of their initial or refresher course completion date -or- within two-years of their state certificate expiration date, whichever is LESS. Those candidates who do not successfully complete the National Registry examination process prior to the two-year anniversary of their state certificate expiration date will be required to complete another full EMT course prior to any further attempts of the certification examination.

To obtain the additional training - OR - to enter a SC EMT Refresher Course (any level) - Perspective candidates must submit the following documentation:

- ◆ A copy of the candidate's out-of-state EMT (Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic) certificate or certification pocket card

- ◆ A completed and signed Out-Of-State Reciprocity Verification form (Page 12).
- ◆ A completed and signed Reciprocity Application (Page 13).
- ◆ Submit a copy of your current BLS (CPR) credential. Paramedic candidates must also submit a copy of their current ACLS credential. A copy of the card is required! Letters are NOT accepted!

If the out-of-state certification can be verified through that state's EMS office, a letter of permission to obtain the required training - OR - permission to enter a SC EMT refresher training program will be mailed to the candidate.

The letter of permission is the candidate's authority to enter the refresher program and, if successful, qualify to take the national registry examination. A reciprocity candidate will NOT be permitted to enter an EMT refresher course - OR - to take the national registry certification examination UNLESS a letter of permission was obtained authorizing them entrance into the refresher program AND they have successfully completed the SC EMT refresher training program.

3. Permission to take the National Registry Examination in SC:

EMTs who possess a current EMT certification in a state, other than SC, may qualify to take the National Registry certification examination. Requirements are as follows:

- ◆ Current certification as an EMT with at least six (6) months remaining on their out-of-state certificate and can document training (complete initial or refresher) within the past two years.
- ◆ Completed national registry application. Applications may be downloaded from the National Registry website, (www.nremt.org).
- ◆ Completed reciprocity application submitted with a copy of your out-of-state EMT certificate or pocket card .
- ◆ A copy of the candidate's current BLS credential or pocket card. Paramedic candidates must also submit a copy of their current ACLS credential.

In addition to the above, EMT-Basics & EMT-Intermediates must also submit the following course documentation:

EMT-Basic:

Submit a detailed course outline of your most recent D.O.T. course (initial or refresher) equivalent to the 1994 D.O.T. EMT-Basic curriculum which indicates

training in orotracheal intubation (ET) & IV maintenance. Speciality training (i.e. ACLS, etc.) is NOT acceptable. You must also provide proof of course completion within the past two-years.

If you can NOT document training in orotracheal intubation & IV maintenance - You must apply to take the additional training here in SC.

EMT-Intermediate:

Submit a detailed course outline of your most recent D.O.T. course (initial or refresher) which indicates training in endotracheal intubation (ET) - AND- intraosseous infusion (IO). Speciality training (i.e. ACLS, PALS, etc.) is NOT acceptable for documentation of ET or IO training. You must also provide proof of course completion within the past two-years.

If you can NOT document training in endotracheal intubation (ET) & intraosseous infusion (IO) - You must apply to take the additional training here in SC.

Once the above documentation has been received, you will be granted the opportunity to take the National Registry Examination (written & practical) and upon submission of a properly completed *Certificate Application** (white, green or blue) *Card*, which will be sent to along with your letter of permission to take the examination, and your successful completion of the National Registry Examination, you will receive a SC state certification.

- * Intermediate & paramedic candidates who successfully pass the state (National Registry) written and practical examination must gain **sponsorship** from a SC licensed EMS director AND that provider's medical control physician **before** state certification can be granted.

Nationally Registered EMTs : (Direct Reciprocity)

Candidates who possess a current National Registry EMT credential and have at least six months remaining on the credential may be granted direct reciprocity. These candidates must submit all of the following documentation:

All Candidates:

- ◆ A copy of the candidate's National Registry EMT certificate or National Registry pocket card *and*, if possible, include your Registry Grade Sheet.
- ◆ A completed and signed Reciprocity Application (Page 12).

- ◆ Submit a copy of your current BLS (CPR) credential. A copy of the card is required! Letters are NOT accepted!

In addition to the above, the following is also required:

- ◆ **EMT-Basic:** Submit a detailed course outline of your most recent D.O.T. course (initial or refresher) equivalent to the 1994 D.O.T. EMT-Basic curriculum which indicates training in orotracheal intubation (ET) & IV maintenance. Speciality training (i.e. ACLS, etc.) is NOT acceptable for documentation of ET or IV training.
- ◆ **EMT-Intermediate:** Submit a detailed course outline of your most recent D.O.T. course (initial or refresher) which indicates training in endotracheal intubation (ET) - AND- intraosseous infusion (IO). Speciality training (i.e. ACLS, PALS, etc.) is NOT acceptable for documentation of ET or IO training.
- ◆ **EMT-Paramedic:** A copy of the candidate's ACLS credential or pocket card. A copy of the card is required! Letters are NOT accepted!

Once the above documentation has been received, the candidate will be sent a *Certificate Application* (white, green or blue) *Card* which must be completed, to include all required endorsements*) and returned.

- * Intermediate & paramedic candidates must gain sponsorship from a SC licensed EMS director AND that provider's medical control physician before state certification can be granted.

Other Candidates - Nurses / Military Medics:

Registered Nurses and Military candidates may qualify to enter a SC EMT refresher course. The following information must be submitted:

Nurses: (Registered Nurses Only - Other Nursing Credentials, i.e. LPN, etc., are not acceptable)

- ◆ A completed and signed Reciprocity Application (Page 12).
- ◆ A copy of the candidate's Registered Nurse license.
- ◆ A resume which details critical care experience (i.e. Emergency Room, ICU, CCU, etc.)
- ◆ Prior to being certified in South Carolina, the candidate must also possess a current BLS & ACLS credential.

Upon receipt of the above documentation, the candidate will be sent a letter of permission to enter a SC refresher course of any level (Basic, Intermediate or Paramedic). After successful completion of the course, the candidate must successfully pass the appropriate SC "state" certification examination and have a properly completed and signed *Certificate Application* (white, green, or blue) *Card* (which is provided during the course) prior to receiving a SC state EMT certification.

Military Medics:

- ◆ A completed and signed Reciprocity Application (Page 12).
- ◆ A copy of the candidate's Military Medic's credential (i.e. 91A, 91B, 91W, DD-214, etc.)
- ◆ Any documentation which details the content of your medical training.
- ◆ Prior to being certified in South Carolina the candidate must also possess a current BLS card.

Upon receipt of the above documentation, the candidate will be sent a letter of permission to enter a SC EMT-Basic refresher course. After successful completion of the course, the candidate must successfully pass the SC state (i.e. National Registry) EMT-Basic certification examination and have a properly completed and signed *Certificate Application* (white) *Card* (which is provided during the course) prior to receiving a SC state EMT certification.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Division of Emergency Medical Services
Out-Of-State Reciprocity Verification Form

Candidate:

Complete Section I - and - Mail this form to the state EMS office where you received your current certification.

CANDIDATE: YOU DO NOT MAIL THIS TO SC DHEC !

Section I: *To be completed by the candidate seeking reciprocity*

Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Area Code & Phone # _____ Certification Level / Certification Number / Expiration Date _____

Section II: *To be completed by the state EMS certifying agency*

Section II must be completed by the state EMS office where you received your current certification.

*The above individual has applied for reciprocity in **South Carolina**. Please complete the following and either **fax** the form to (803-545-4212 attn: EMS Division) -OR- mail to SC DHEC EMS Division, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.*

1) Indicate **current** certification level of candidate: _____
If other than an EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic, please include a description of training and approved skills.

2) Candidates certificate expiration date: _____

3) If the candidate (**Basic or Intermediate**) received initial of refresher training in your state, please indicate all the following which applies:

EMT-Basic

☐ EMT-Basic 1994 DOT Curriculum
☐ IV Maintenance
☐ Endotracheal Intubation

EMT-Intermediate

☐ DOT Initial or Refresher course _____
☐ Endotracheal Intubation _____ Date of course _____
☐ Intraosseous Infusion _____

4) Has this candidate ever had his/her certification revoked or suspended? _____ *(If Yes attach details.)*

5) Has this candidate ever been convicted of a felony? ☐ Yes, ☐ No, ☐ Unknown *(If Yes attach details.)*

6) Was this candidate's certification issued based on reciprocity from another state? _____

If **Yes**, Which state: _____ When: _____

If **Yes**, Has this candidate received refresher training in your state? ☐ No, ☐ Yes _____
Date of Training _____

7) Any reason why this candidate should **Not** be granted reciprocity? _____ *(If Yes attach details.)*

Name (Print) of **state** official completing form _____ Title _____ Your State _____

Signature of **state** official completing form _____ Telephone Number _____

Reciprocity Application

Candidate's Name (**Print or Type**)

Date

Candidate's Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Home Phone

Work Phone

_____-_____-_____
Social Security Number

(CHECK ONLY **ONE** LEVEL) - BE SURE TO ENCLOSE ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION)

EMT-Basic * ☐ ☐

EMT-Intermediate* ☐ ☐

EMT- Paramedic* ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ Direct Reciprocity

☐ ☐ Additional Training / Refresher Course Requested

Military Medics ☐ - *Permission for EMT-Basic Refresher Course only !*

Nurse : (RN only) ☐ ☐ - *Permission for Refresher Course (any level) only !*

**You MUST be (or have been) certified (Out-Of-State -or- Nationally Registered) at the same level of reciprocity you are requesting.*

Application packets MUST contain ALL required documentation. Incomplete packets will be returned.

I VERIFY ALL THE INFORMATION IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. I HAVE ENCLOSED ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY FOR THE LEVEL OF REFRESHER TRAINING OR RECIPROCITY THAT I SEEK. I UNDERSTAND THAT MY REQUEST WILL NOT BE PROCESSED UNTIL A COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET IS RECEIVED BY THE STATE EMS OFFICE.

Signature of candidate

Date

Return the completed application will ALL DOCUMENTATION to:

SC DHEC, EMS Division

2600 Bull Street

Columbia, SC 29201

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